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# OCDPA E-BULLETIN

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PROJECT MANAGER

**W**ell, here it is! Our first e-bulletin. We have changed the format from the manager's update that you may have received electronically in the past. The last manager's update was circulated in early October 2005. Our aim is to provide these e-bulletins bi-monthly.

The e-bulletin will continue to bring you updates from the staff but will also hope to include information from the chair and vice-chair of OCDPA and from the chairs of the working groups. We welcome your input and contributions.

As many of you know, starting in October OCDPA staff expanded to include Giselle Sicchia who is the program assistant and Ann-Marie Kungl program coordinator, in addition to myself, Tracy Howson as manager.

Giselle has been a wonderful asset in providing organizational support. She will also be heading up many aspects which will aid us in communications. Ann-Marie has brought her enthusiasm to OCDPA and has been providing support to some of the work groups. As well she has provided research and writing expertise for the pre-budget legislative submission and the paper for the knowledge exchange working group.

We also had the lovely addition of Margaret Ancobiah, our intern from Great Britain. Margaret arrived in September and escaped back to England, having completed her 3 month requirement, the day before the cold blast hit Ontario before Christmas.

We have organized the newsletter to highlight what is happening on OCDPA working groups and projects. We have also tried to capture anything we feel you might find relevant regarding chronic disease prevention and healthy living at a provincial, national and global level. We will also include any important date information such as dates of confer-

ences or workshop we think might interest you.

If you have something you feel we should include in our newsletter, please forward to [gsicchia@opha.on.ca](mailto:gsicchia@opha.on.ca) before the end of the month and we will endeavour to include it in the following e-bulletin.

We would welcome your feedback as we try to keep you apprised of the activities of your OCDPA. These can also sent to Giselle or myself at [thowson@opha.on.ca](mailto:thowson@opha.on.ca).

If your name appears incorrectly or has been omitted please contact us and we will rectify the problem. Also, if you have any suggestions or content that you would like to see in future e-bulletins, please contact me at [thowson@opha.on.ca](mailto:thowson@opha.on.ca).

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## THE ONTARIO CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION AND HEALTHY LIVING STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT WORKING SESSION

*Phew!! What a DAY!*

November 21, the OCDPA hosted a Strategy Development Working Session at the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel. Over 140 attendees representing all of Ontario spent the day providing input into our emerging Strategy. Representation included Public Health units and agencies, Community Health Centres, Hospitals and Stroke Centres, Municipalities, both Provincial and Federal governments, Community Coalitions including Heart Health, FOCUS and health networks.

Overall feedback was positive. Participants indicated that the working session was a good use of their time and requested to be kept informed and involved with the Alliance and the developing Strategy. OCDPA is working hard to encourage those that wish to provide further input into the Strategy do so, and to ensure that participants see themselves and their future work in the coming Strategy.

While the Strategy continues to be shaped, final interviews and input sessions are now taking place. It is not a small undertaking to develop an Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Strategy, however given the engagement, participation, and energy evident at the November 21 session, we are all up to the task. The ETA of the final Strategy from the consultants is the end of February 14, 2006. STAY TUNED!

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### PROJECT UPDATES

#### *Projects funded by the Ministry of Health Promotion*

##### *Communications*

During these past months we have been consulting with as many of you as we could entice to provide feedback to the Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention and Healthy Living Strategy.

We have had the opportunity to share our ideas with the new Minister and Ministry of Health Promotion. An OCDPA fact sheet was prepared and we also developed a poster display which made its debut appearance at the alpha/OPHA conference.

With Giselle's support, and Allan McFarlane's leadership as chair, the Communication working group will provide future guidance to this important aspect of OCDPA.

##### *Message development*

In 2005 we identified the need to look at health messages. Simultaneously, our neighbours across the boarder released a report. Since then some of

the Canadian provinces have come out with health goals and messages. OCDPA has undertaken to review what currently exists and will bring forward health messages based on what current evidence and messages exist else where. We hope to bring forward a draft report for your perusal on March 3, with a final product by the end of the month.

#### *Project funded from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)*

##### *Web-hosted database and environmental scan*

A request for proposal will be issued the week of Jan 30 – Feb 3 looking at the investigation of a web-hosted database and environmental scan of existing chronic disease prevention and healthy living programs at the community and provincial level in Ontario.

The scan will build on the work completed by the OCDPA by CCO in July 2005. It will also research what may not have been included and include, as recommended in the CCO report, programs located at the local and regional level. In addition the eventual information will be structured to be database compatible.

## **CURRENTLY ACTIVE WORK GROUPS**

### ***Strategic Planning (Shared Engagement) working group (SPWG)***

Members include: Deb Keen <chair> (CCO), Laurie Hurley (Arthritis), Barb Riley (CBRPE), Mary Lewis (HSF), Justin Brown (HSF), Connie Clement (OPC), Connie Uetrecht (OPHA), Norman Geisbrecht (CAMH), Marj Keast (MOHLTC), Allison Weinstein (MHP)

The SPWG has been meeting regularly and have been hard at work to help guide the development of the Strategic Plan. The group will be meeting next on February 14th at the OPHA office from 12:30 to 4:00pm.

### ***Knowledge Exchange working group (KEWG)***

Members include: Helen Gagne <chair> (CCO), Michelle Brownrigg (OPHEA), Marianne Kobus Matthews/ Nevin Coston (CAMH), Pam Benson(FOCUS), Laurie Hurley (Arthritis), Shawn Chirrey (HSF), Anne Lessio (HHRC)

The KEWG met on February 9 to discuss a draft of the Chronic Disease Prevention Knowledge Exchange paper that is shaping/proposing a role for the Alliance as a Knowledge Broker. The shape of the paper is changing and being informed by a smallgroup from the KEWG and discussions with Paula Robeson and Maureen Dobbins (Knowledge Brokers) associated with health-evidence.ca. We're working to provide a draft of the paper the the Alliance on March 3 for confirmation of our direction and feedback. The KEWG meets next on March 22nd.

### ***Knowledge Exchange working group (KEWG)***

Members include: Rowena Pinto <chair> (CCS), Linda Steward (ALPHA), Jill Pritchard (OSC), Justin Brown (HSF), Mary Lewis (HSF), Janet Bick (KFC), Michelle Brownrigg (OPHEA)

OCDPA written submissions to the Minister of Finance and the Standing Committee on Finance & Economic Affairs were successfully recieved on or before the February 2 deadline. Tracy Howson attended the MHP Roundtables on Monday February 6th. The next meeting of the AWG is pending based on availability of our chair post February 17th.

### ***Communications working group***

Members include: Alan McFarlane <chair> (The Lung Association), Connie Uetrecht (OPHA), Nancy Dubois and Frank Prospero (Active Living Resource Centre for Ontarians with a Disability)

Thank you to Alan McFarlane for volunteering to chair the new Communications working group and to those who have volunteered to work on this project. As you can see we are proceeding with a new look to the Manager report and are in the process of updating materials to go on our website.

**OCDPA ALLIANCE AND WORKING GROUP MEETING SCHEDULE**  
*As of September 30, 2005*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Group and details</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>February 14</b>	<b>SPWG to meet to review</b> the nearly completed Chronic Disease Prevention and Healthy Living Strategy  Happy Valentine's Day!	10:00 – 4:00	OPHA 700 Lawrence Ave W
<b>March 3</b>	<b>All members Alliance meeting</b>  <i>Updates and discussion:</i> 1. CDP Strategy WG – Strategy development 2. Knowledge Exchange WG 3. Advocacy WG 4. Communication WG 5. Milestone WG  <i>Projects completed</i> - Chronic Disease Prevention in Ontario and Canada:  <i>Projects in process for completion march 2006</i> - Health Messages - Environmental Scan and web-hosted database investigation - Proposal for next year	9:00 – 12:30	CCS 1639 Yonge Street
<b>March 22</b>	<b>Knowledge Exchange working group</b>	2:00 - 4:30	Arthritis Society
<b>March TBA</b>	<b>Core - planning</b>	TBA	

Short forms

CAMH	Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
CCO	Cancer Care Ontario
CCS	Canadian Cancer Society
H&S	Heart and Stroke Foundation
MOHLTC	Ministry of Health and Long Term Care
MPH	Ministry of Health Promotion
OPC	Ontario Prevention Clearinghouse
OPHA	Ontario Public Health Association
SPWG	Strategic Planning Working Group
TPH	Toronto Public Health
WG	Working Group

<b>MARK YOUR CALENDAR</b>		
<i>Upcoming Conferences</i>		
CPHA	May 28-31, 2006	<a href="http://www.cpha.ca">www.cpha.ca</a>
CDPAC	Nov 5-8, 2006	<a href="http://www.cdpac.ca">www.cdpac.ca</a>
OPHA	Oct 25-27, 2006	<a href="http://www.opha.on.ca">www.opha.on.ca</a>